



The 2012 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize Goes to Jonathan Shapiro (“Zapiro”)

South African cartoonist to be honoured next week in Cape Town during 29th IPA Publishers’ Congress for courage under difficult conditions

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Cartoonist Jonathan Shapiro (“Zapiro”) has been named the recipient of this year’s IPA Freedom to Publish Prize for his exemplary courage in upholding freedom to publish. IPA President YoungSuk “Y.S.” Chi will formally present this year’s award during the closing ceremony of the 29th Congress of the International Publishers Association (IPA) to be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) on 14 June. The keynote speech will be delivered by Brian Wafawarowa, Executive Director of the Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA).

The IPA Executive Committee has named South African cartoonist Jonathan Shapiro (“Zapiro”) as winner of the 2012 Freedom to Publish Award.

Born in 1958 in Cape Town, Shapiro is South Africa's best known and possibly most successful cartoonist. After attending the University of Cape Town, he was conscripted into the South African Army, where he chose not to bear arms and, while still in the military, became a participant in the End Conscription Campaign, designing its logo. In 1983, Shapiro became active in the newly-formed United Democratic Front (UDF), an anti-apartheid organisation. His involvement in the UDF led to his arrest under the Illegal Gatherings Act, and he was subsequently monitored by military intelligence. In 1987, Shapiro started as an editorial cartoonist for *South* newspaper. The following year, he was detained without trial as a political activist by security police shortly before leaving on a Fulbright Scholarship to the School of Visual Arts in New York.

Since his return to South Africa in 1991, Shapiro has drawn educational comics on subjects such as AIDS, democracy and child abuse prevention. His work has been featured in both solo and group cartoon exhibitions in South Africa and internationally, and he regularly speaks and offers workshops on cartooning. Since 1996, he has published 17 annual cartoon collections. In 2008, he published an additional collection entitled *The Mandela Files*, a collection of cartoons featuring Nelson Mandela, in tribute to the former President. From 2003 to 2006, he attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, as one of a group of invited cartoonists, and he is involved in the Cartooning for Peace initiative, a project started in October 2006 following the “Unlearning Intolerance” conference at the UN Headquarters in New York. He also

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continues to draw cartoons for many highly-regarded South African newspapers, including *The Mail & Guardian*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*.

In 2006, Jacob Zuma sued Zapiro for 15 million South African Rand over 3 cartoons done during Jacob Zuma's rape trial (he was acquitted). The amount demanded has been reduced, but the lawsuit has not been withdrawn.

In 2008, Jacob Zuma, later to become South Africa's President, sued Avusa Media, the publisher of *Sunday Times*, the ex-editor of the newspaper, and Shapiro over a September 2008 political cartoon by Zapiro depicting President Zuma about to rape "Lady Justice". As South Africa's President, Jacob Zuma is still pursuing this case and seeking 5 million South African Rand for defamation. The first court hearing, before Johannesburg's High Court, is due to take place on 25 October 2012.

Bjørn Smith-Simonsen, Chair of IPA's Freedom to Publish Committee, commented: "Jonathan Shapiro has had the enormous courage to draw and publish essential, and often controversial, political cartoons in newspapers and books for many years now. He has also been remarkably consistent in his fight for freedom of expression during the apartheid era, and in the years since it ended. He has been criticized and publicly intimidated in South Africa, and has even received death threats. The defamation lawsuit initiated against him by the country's President is set to begin on 25 October 2012. Despite the lawsuit, Jonathan Shapiro is not afraid. In fact, he is one of the brave voices speaking out against the dangers of corruption and authoritarianism, thus using with courage – through subversive humour – his right to freedom of expression and freedom to publish. Jonathan Shapiro exemplifies everything that the IPA Freedom to Publish prize stands for.

"We therefore call for Jonathan Shapiro's acquittal and on his government to stop using defamation lawsuits as a tool to stifle freedom of expression, and in this regard to uphold Article 16 of the South African Constitution, Article 12 of the 2002 Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa, and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

In accepting the award Jonathan Shapiro said: "It is an honour to receive such a meaningful award, one that has previously been given to courageous writers and activists under threat all over the world. And to receive it right now in South Africa is of particular significance to me. The African National Congress, the very movement that brought democracy to South Africa, now as the ruling party responds to criticism by curtailing the spread of information and by stifling freedom of expression. Journalists, whistleblowers, corruption-busters, cultural activists and even judges have been targeted. Politicians who demand that artists and writers conform will find that many of us consider it our duty to be patriotic sceptics".

For more about Jonathan Shapiro, see: www.zapiro.com

To register to attend the award ceremony taking place at 4 p.m. at CTICC on 14 June (daily rates are available, and press registration is free), please contact Cheryl Marsh at: 021 408 9783, or at: cmarsh@tourvestdm.com

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ADDENDUM:

1. More about the IPA Freedom to Publish Prize:

IPA created the IPA Freedom to Publish Prize in 2005. It is awarded for exemplary courage in upholding freedom of expression and freedom to publish. The Prize is intended to honour each year a person, organisation or institution that has made a recent notable contribution to the defence and promotion of freedom to publish anywhere in the world. Prize-winners receive the sum of 5000 CHF. The list of past recipients is available at: www.internationalpublishers.org/index.php/freedom-to-publish/ipa-freedom-to-publish-prize

2. More about the 29th IPA Congress:

Since its foundation in 1896, IPA has invited publishers and their partners first every four years, then every two years, to discuss the future of publishing. The 29th IPA Publishers' Congress will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 12 to 14 June 2012. It will be hosted by the Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA). For the first time, the IPA Congress will be held in Africa on the eve of the 6th Cape Town Book Fair. The general theme of the Congress is: "Publishing for a New Era". Hundreds of publishers from all over the world are expected to participate, together with some authors, copyright specialists, librarians and officials from various countries and international organisations.

With the opportunities for, and challenges of, digital publishing, the slow economic recovery, the threats of state publishing and the raging debates on copyright law and intellectual property rights, the IPA Congress delegates will have much to talk about and share information on. It is an engrossing time for the global industry to ponder over its future and formulate new strategies to take on opportunities and challenges.

For more information, please visit the Congress website at: www.ipa2012.co.za

3. Insult laws, criminal defamation and IPA:

Domestic legislation should impose limits on the use of defamation charges by public bodies and officials, and on the amount of damage claims. Public figures should be more tolerant of criticism than ordinary citizens as is stressed in the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa adopted in Banjul by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in 2002. See: www.achpr.org/sessions/32nd/resolutions/62/

Insult laws and, above all, criminal defamation constitute a disproportionate interference to the guarantee of freedom of expression and freedom to publish. Since 2007, IPA has called on African governments to abolish "insult" and criminal defamation laws, as well as all other laws that restrict freedom of expression by supporting the Table Mountain Declaration adopted in Cape Town by the World Association of Newspapers in 2007. In November 2011, President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger became the first head of State to endorse the Declaration by signing it.

See: www.internationalpublishers.org/images/pdf/FTP/table_mountain_res.pdf

4. More about IPA:

The International Publishers Association (IPA) is an international industry federation representing all aspects of book and journal publishing. Established in 1896, IPA's mission is to promote and protect publishing and to raise awareness for publishing as a force for economic, cultural and political development. Around the world IPA actively fights against censorship and promotes copyright, literacy and freedom to publish. IPA is a trade association with a human rights mandate.